What is claimed:

1.   A system for facilitating commerce in an industry marketplace comprising a community of participants in a target industry comprising:

     a computer network;

     a market segment within the industry;

     a database for information relevant to the industry or to the market segment accessible via the computer network, the database comprising at least one of the following: data, a value-added service; a commerce service; and

     an interface, wherein the interface provides access to the information.

2.   The system of claim 1, wherein said computer network comprise a wide area network..

3.   The system of claim 1, wherein said community comprises a "virtual" community.

4.   The system of claim 3, wherein said virtual community is implemented as a site on the world wide web.

5.   The system of claim 1, wherein said community comprises a single market segment within a single industry.

6.   The system of claim 1, wherein the scope, make-up and size of said community vary depending on the make-up, size and scope of the market segment.

7.   The system of claim 1, wherein said community fluctuates as the make-up, size and scope of said market segment fluctuates.

8.   The system of claim 1 further wherein said comprising one or more users.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein said community of participants comprises one or more of the following: users and/or suppliers of shipping and logistics services, operations and products.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein said community of participants comprises members of distinct levels.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein said distinct levels are membership levels structured to meet needs of users and suppliers in a target industry supply chain.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein said members comprise one or more of the following:

>an equity member;

>a commission based member;

>a transaction user member; and

>a referral member.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein said community of participants comprises one or more providers of shipping, logistics, and/or operations services and/or products.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein said services, operations and products comprise one or more of the following:

>logistics operations execution;

>logistics network optimization;

>logistics compliance management; and

>logistics procurement functionality.

15.   The system of claim 1, further comprising systems and methods for receipt of one or more types or revenue.

16.   The system of claim 15, said types of revenue comprise one or more of the following:

> transaction fees;
>
> commission revenues;
>
> subscription fees; and
>
> referral fees.

17.   The system of claim 1, wherein said community of participants comprises one or more virtual fourth party shipping and logistics providers.

18.   The system of claim 1, wherein said system includes a logistics software infrastructure.

19.   The system of claim 1, further comprising systems and methods able to leverage one or more of the following supply chain components:

> procurement;
>
> distribution;
>
> warehousing;
>
> reverse logistics; and
>
> logistics costs.

20.   The system of claim 1, further comprising one or more of the following capabilities:

> logistics domain expertise; and

logistics operations execution capabilities.

21. The system of claim 1, further comprising one or more of the following capabilities:

> content/value-added services; and

> commerce enabling services.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein said content/value-added services comprise one or more of the following:

> supply-chain-wide communication and integration;

> access to "live" status on actions occurring in the supply-chain;

> products and services information;

> pricing and availability information;

> analysis of historical data;

> access to and preparation of specialized reports;

> Material Safety Data Sheets;

> information relating to HSE services policies;

> market information;

> business intelligence reports;

> training and education;

> internal and external compliance audits and reports; and

> industry news and information.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein said commerce enabling services comprise one or more of the following services, said services providing for:

multi-vendor shipping and/or logistics products, operations and/or

services;

catalogues

storefronts;

an eCatalogue hub;

a liquid exchange for high volume logistics products, services and/or

operations;

customer-specific pricing functionality;

request for quotation (RFQ) functionality for infrequent or single instance

purchases;

eVendor managed inventory systems connectivity for reduction in

transaction costs;

surplus auction capabilities;

company business rule customization;

intelligent agents; and

shipping, transportation, storage and warehousing information.

24.   The system of claim 21, wherein said commerce enabling services comprise a

service offering or package.

25.   The system of claim 24, wherein said service offering or package comprises a

service offering or package developed from user needs; and including one or more of the

following:

single point systems to systems integration;

electronic multi-vendor managed inventory; and

time saving applications.

26. The system of claim 24, wherein said commerce enabling services further comprises a marketplace for transactions among suppliers and users of shipping and logistics services, operations and products, said marketplace connecting suppliers with users desiring to purchase logistics services, operations and products.

27. The system of claim 16, wherein said marketplace further comprises an information database.

28. The system of claim 24, wherein said service offering or package comprises one or more of the following:

procurement and management of a global logistics network;

operations performance of a logistics network;

planning and optimization of logistics;

global compliance; and

logistics analysis and reporting.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein said procurement and management of a global logistics network comprises one or more of the following:

logistics service supplier procurement; and

negotiation processes for transportation, facilities and services.

30. The system of claim 28, wherein said operations performance of a logistics network comprises one or more of the following:

selection of carriers for shipment(s);

arrangement and building of shipment(s);

tracing/expediting inbound and outbound shipment(s);

rate information/freight invoice(s) audit processing;

maintenance of freight rate table(s);

measurement of suppliers performance;

maintenance of transit standards;

processing of carrier claims;

answering customer complaints;

managing supplier relationships; and

auditing warehouse/terminal compliance.

31. The system of claim 28, wherein said planning and optimization of logistics comprises one or more of the following:

logistics network optimization;

determination of logistics equipment/asset requirements;

customer focused logistics solutions; and

customer visits.

32. The system of claim 28, wherein said global compliance comprises one or more of the following:

compliance with the distribution code;

dangerous goods compliance; and

distribution emergency response.

33.   The system of claim 28, wherein said logistics analysis and reporting comprises

data integrity and performance measurement.

34.   A system for facilitating logistics in an industry marketplace comprising:

a plurality of trading partners;

a computer network;

a processor functionally connected to said computer network and operative to

integrate the logistics data of said trading partners and provide the data in

response to a request;

a database server functionally connected to said processor operative to store data

from and provide data to said processor;

a network access device functionally connected to said processor and said network

and operative to issue said request.

35.   A system for facilitating logistics in an industry marketplace comprising:

a computer network;

a network access device functionally connected to said computer network and

operative to perform functionality comprising at least one of: present a

graphical user interface and perform scheduled operations;

a web server functionally connected to said computer network and operative to

provide a document in response to requests;

an application server functionally connected to said web server and operative to

execute business logic and provide content to said web server for said

provision of said document;

a database server functionally connected to said application server and operative

to provide data to said application server;

an integration server functionally connected to said database server and operative

to integrate data from disparate sources into a standard structured data format;

a business-to-business server, functionally connected to said integration server

and operative to exchange data with a business application, wherein said

business application comprises at least one of: an electronic data interchange-

based carrier, an XML-enabled application, a warehouse management system,

an enterprise resource management system, and a customer relationship

management system; and

a plurality of trading partners functionally connected to said business-to-business

server.